

**§ 251.181 General.**

(a) The United States or any of its Government agencies may, upon filing proper customs entry, withdraw imported distilled spirits free of tax from customs custody, as authorized by 26 U.S.C. 5313 and under the provisions of this subpart. Before any distilled spirits may be withdrawn, a permit to procure the spirits shall be obtained from the Director. A bond is not required for any Government agency to procure and withdraw spirits free of tax under this subpart.

(b) The provisions of subpart N of part 22 of this chapter cover the withdrawal of domestically produced tax-free spirits for use of the United States or any of its Government agencies.

(Sec. 201, Pub. L. 85-859, 72 Stat. 1372, as amended, 1375, as amended (26 U.S.C. 5273, 5313))

**§ 251.182 Application and permit, Form 5150.33.**

(a) *General.* All permits previously issued to the United States or any of its Government agencies on Form 1444 shall remain valid and will be regulated by the same provisions of this subpart as it refers to permits on Form 5150.33.

(b) *Application.* (1) A Government agency of the United States shall apply to the Director for a permit to procure and withdraw spirits free of tax on Form 5150.33. Upon approval by the Director, Form 5150.33 will be returned to the agency.

(2) If a Government agency intends to withdraw spirits free of tax under this part and part 22 of this chapter, Form 5150.33 may be annotated to cover both types of withdrawals.

(3) A separate permit is not required for each port of entry. The application, Form 5150.33, may be completed to indicate the applicable ports of entry in which spirits will be withdrawn from customs custody.

(4) A Government agency may specify on its application that it desires a single permit authorizing all sub-agencies under its control to procure and withdraw spirits free of tax under this subpart and subpart N of part 22 of this chapter; or, each Government location may individually file an application for a permit, Form 5150.33.

(5) Each application for a permit shall be signed by the head of the agency or sub-agency, or the incumbent of an office which is authorized by the head of the agency or sub-agency, to sign. Evidence of authorization to sign on behalf of the head of an agency or sub-agency shall be furnished with the application.

(c) *Use of spirits.* Spirits withdrawn under this subpart may not be used for non-Government purposes.

(d) *Cancellation of permit.* All permits on Form 5150.33 and previous editions on Form 1444 shall remain in force until surrendered or canceled. Upon surrender or cancellation, the Government agency shall obtain and destroy all photocopies of the permit furnished to district directors of customs, and forward the original to the Director for cancellation.

(Sec. 201, Pub. L. 85-859, 72 Stat. 1375, as amended (26 U.S.C. 5313))

**§ 251.183 Use of permit, Form 5150.33.**

Each Government agency shall retain the original of its permit, Form 5150.33, on file. When filing an initial customs entry to withdraw spirits free of tax from a port of entry, the agency shall furnish a photocopy of its permit to the district director of customs for retention. In the case of an agency holding a single permit for use of its sub-agencies, an attachment to the permit shall list all locations authorized to withdraw spirits free of tax from customs custody. Any subsequent requests for customs entry from the same port shall refer to the permit number.

(Sec. 201, Pub. L. 85-859, 72 Stat. 1375, as amended (26 U.S.C. 5313))

**§ 251.184 Entry documents.**

Entry documents for importation of tax-free spirits under this subpart shall record the serial numbers or other identifying numbers of the containers and the total quantity in proof gallons of the spirits to be entered.

[T.D. ATF-198, 50 FR 8559, Mar. 1, 1985]

**§ 251.185 Customs release.**

(a) Upon receipt of appropriate customs entry and a photocopy of a permit, Form 5150.33 or previous editions

on Form 1444 (5150.33), the district director of customs shall, following an inspection of the shipment, release spirits free of tax to the Government agency named on the permit, or an attachment thereto.

(b) Customs officers shall not release spirits for shipment until the shipment has been inspected for losses in transit. If it appears that a container or containers have sustained losses in transit, the customs officers shall gauge the damaged container and prepare a package gauge record for the entire shipment, according to § 251.139. A copy of the package gauge record will be retained for the customs files and the original forwarded to the consignee agency.

(Sec. 201, Pub. L. 85-859, 72 Stat. 1375, as amended (26 U.S.C. 5313))

### Subpart N—Requirements for Liquor Bottles

AUTHORITY: Sec. 5301, 72 Stat. 1374; 26 U.S.C. 5301.

SOURCE: T.D. 6954, 33 FR 6819, May 4, 1968, unless otherwise noted. Redesignated at 40 FR 16835, Apr. 15, 1975.

#### § 251.201 Scope of subpart.

The provisions of this subpart shall apply only to liquor bottles having a capacity of 200 ml. or more except where expressly applied to liquor bottles of less than 200 ml. capacity.

[T.D. 6954, 33 FR 6819, May 4, 1968. Redesignated at 40 FR 16835, Apr. 15, 1975, and amended by T.D. ATF-34, 41 FR 46865, Oct. 26, 1976]

#### § 251.202 Standards of fill.

Distilled spirits imported into the United States in containers of 1 gallon (3.785 liters) or less for sale shall be imported only in liquor bottles, including liquor bottles of less than 200 ml capacity, which conform to the applicable standards of fill provided in § 5.47a of this chapter. Empty liquor bottles, including liquor bottles of less than 200 ml capacity, which conform to the provisions of part 19, or subpart E of part 5 of this chapter, may be imported for packaging distilled spirits in the

United States as provided in part 19 of this chapter.

[T.D. ATF-62, 44 FR 71720, Dec. 11, 1979]

#### § 251.204 Distinctive liquor bottles.

(a) *Application.* Liquor bottles of distinctive shape or design, including bottles of less than 200 ml. capacity, may be imported by an importer (filled bottles) or a bottler (empty bottles). For filled bottles, the importer shall submit ATF Form 5100.31 to the Director for approval prior to importation of such bottles into the United States. For empty bottles, the bottler shall obtain approval from the Director on ATF Form 5100.31 prior to using the bottles. The importer or bottler, as applicable, shall certify as to the total capacity of a representative sample bottle before closure (expressed in milliliters) on each copy of the form. In addition, the applicant shall affix a readily legible photograph (both front and back of the bottle to the front of each copy of ATF Form 5100.31, along with the label(s) to be used on the bottle. The applicant shall not submit an actual bottle or an authentic model unless specifically requested to do so.

(b) *Approval.* Properly submitted ATF Forms 5100.31 to import distinctive liquor bottles (filled), or, properly submitted ATF Forms 5100.31 to use distinctive liquor bottles (empty) which have been imported, shall be approved provided such bottles are found by the Director to—

- (1) Meet the requirements of 27 CFR part 5;
- (2) Be distinctive;
- (3) Be suitable for their intended purpose;
- (4) Not jeopardize the revenue; and
- (5) Not be deceptive to the consumer.

The applicant shall keep a copy of the approved ATF Form 5100.31, including an approved photograph (both front and back) of the distinctive liquor bottle, on file at his premises. If ATF Form 5100.31 is disapproved, the applicant shall be notified of the Director's decision and the reasons therefor. The applicant importer is responsible for furnishing a copy of the approved ATF Form 5100.31, including a photograph of the distinctive liquor bottle, to Customs officials at each affected port of